

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated October 27, 2004 (Paper No./Mail Date 20041027). The present Amendment cancels rejected claims 1-10 in favor of potentially pursuing their allowance in a separately-filed continuation application. New claims 15-17 have also been added, support for which can be found variously throughout the specification, including, for example, original claims 4, 5 and 9. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 11-17 are presently pending in the application, each of which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the present Amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

On page 2 of the present Office Action, the examiner indicates that claim 11 is "objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim". However, on June 30, 2004, Applicant submitted an Amendment in which, *inter alia*, claim 11 was amended so as to be set forth in independent form, as presented in the current Amendment. Thus, independent claim 11, having been amended to incorporate the limitations of its base claim, is allowable and withdrawal of the rejection of the same is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Action, claims 1 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,044,041 to Ishizaki et al. ("Ishizaki"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite prosecution, claims 1-10 have been cancelled in favor of potentially pursuing allowance of the same in a separately-filed continuation application. Thus, this rejection has been mooted, and withdrawal thereof is courteously solicited.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2070, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

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Respectfully submitted,

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